

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a new Abstract of the Disclosure

Abstract

Method of automatically processing a speech signal which comprises the steps of:

- determining a sequence of probability models corresponding to a given text;
- determining a sequence of acoustic strings corresponding to the diction of the given text;
- aligning between the sequence of acoustic strings and the sequence of models; and
- determining a confidence index of acoustic alignment for each association between a model and an acoustic segment.

Each determining step of an alignment confidence index is carried out at least from a combination of the model probability, *a priori* model probabilities and the average duration of occupancy of the models.